

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG FAO ECON

SUBJECT: REPORT ON 24TH WFP/IGC OCTOBER 3-9, 1973, ROME.

FODAG

1. SUMMARY: TWENTY-FOURTH WFP/IGC CHAIRED BY AID/FFP COORDINATOR ANDREW J. MAIR COMPLETED FULL AGENDA OF BUSINESS OCTOBER 9. MEETING STUCK TO BUSINESS AT HAND, AVOIDED POLITICAL OR OTHER CONFRONTATIONS. MAIN TOPICS OF INTEREST WERE IMPACT OF COMMODITY SHORTAGES ON RESOURCES OF THE PROGRAM, 1975-76 PLEDGE TARGET, FAO PROPOSAL ON MINIMUM WORLD FOOD SECURITY, ASSISTANCE TO LEAST DEVELOPED AND WFP'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SAHEL. END SUMMARY.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AQUINO'S OPENING STATEMENT SET TONE OF MEETING BY STRESSING IMPACT OF PRICE INCREASES FOR BASIC FOOD STOCKS ON RESOURCES OF PROGRAM. ED NOTED SERIOUS IMPAIRMENT TO EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAM EVEN IF DOLLAR VALUE OF CURRENT COMMITMENTS MET. STATEMENTS BY DG BOERMA AND UN SYG REP SUPPORTED AQUINO'S VIES. LATTER ALSO NOTED THAT "IMPORTANCE THIS QUESTION EMPHASIZED BY U.S. PROPOSAL FOR WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE UNDER UN AUSPICES IN 1974." GLOOMY OUTLOOK MITIGATED SOMEWHAT

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BY EEC ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLEDGE OF \$51 MILLION (SUBJECT TO

APPROVAL BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS) WHICH, TAKING U.S. MATCHING FORMULA INTO CONSIDERATION, WOULD PUT WFP OVER 5TH PLEDGE TARGET (\$340 MILLION) BRINGING TOTAL TO \$355 MILLION FOR 1973-74. THERE WAS NO CRITICISM, AS EXPECTED, OF MAJOR DONORS.

3. IGC ACCEPTED 1975-76 PLEDGE TARGET OF \$440 MILLION PROPOSED BY WFP FOR SUBMISSION TO FAO COUNCIL AND 55TH ECOSOC FOR APPROVAL. TARGET CHARACTERIZED AS "REALISTIC" UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF TIGHT SUPPLY. ED POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS MINIMUM TARGET AND IF ACHIEVED WOULD PERMIT CONTINUATION OF PRESENT PROGRAMS BUT WITH NO GROWTH. AT U.S. SUGGESTION, ED SENDING LETTERS TO ALL UN AND FAO MEMBERS, ON BEHALF OF IGC, URGING GOVERNMENTS TO DO UTMOST TO ACHIEVE NEW TARGET LEVEL.

4. IGC APPROVED PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET. U.S. ONLY MEMBER TO QUESTION INCREASES AND TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED PERSONNEL INCREASES UNTIL NEXT IGC IN ORDER BETTER TO DETERMINE REQUIREMENTS IN LIGHT ACTUAL OPERATING EXPENSES. U.S. ALSO PROPOSED THAT MEMBERS CONSIDER FOR DISCUSSION AT 25TH IGC WAYS AND MEANS TO CONDUCT A MORE THOROUGH REVIEW OF BUDGET AND HANDLE OTHER FINANCIAL/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

5. IGC WELCOMED FAO'S PROPOSAL ON MINIMUM WORLD FOOD SECURITY. IT CONCURRED IN WFP ROLE AS DESCRIBED IN DOCUMENTATION.

6. IGC ENDORSED "CANADIAN PROPOSAL" TO HELP LEAST DEVELOPED BY MAKING EFFORT TO COVER 30 0/0 OF COSTS OF INTERNAL TRANSPORT FOR CY 74. US AND JAPAN RECOMMENDED REFERRAL OF QUESTION TO ECOSOC STUDY OF FUND TO ASSIST LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES BEFORE REACHING A DECISION IN WFP. AQUINO AGREED TO EXERT BEST EFFORTS WITHIN CONSTRAINTS OF TIGHT CASH SITUATION. IGC ALSO AUTHORIZED PROGRAM TO SPEND UP TO \$1.5 MILLION TO MEET TRANSPORT COSTS OF FAC CONTRIBUTIONS WHERE FREIGHT RATES HAVE RISEN ABOVE THE AMOUNT PROVIDED BY THE FAC SUPPORT FORMULA. ED EXPECTED THEREAFTER OBTAIN DONOR GOVERNMENT REIMBURSEMENT TO EXTENT POSSIBLE.

7. THE COMMITTEE WAS COMPLIMENTARY OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S EFFORTS AND PART WFP PLAYING IN SAHELIAN ZONE OPERATIONS.
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U.S. URGED WFP TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVES TO COSTLY AIRLIFT IN 1974. ALSO URGED WFP TO IMPROVE EFFORTS COORDINATE INFORMATION EXCHANGE.

8. FOR FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY, IGC APPROVED NO NEW PROJECTS BECAUSE OF PROGRAM'S TIGHT RESOURCE POSITION.

9. TWENTY-FIFTH IGC SCHEDULED TO MEET FOR ONE WEEK BEGINNING

APRIL 22, 1974 IN ROME.

10. OUTSIDE FORMAL MEETINGS, DELS AND STAFF EXPRESSED INTEREST AND CURIOSITY IN U.S. PROPOSED WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. THEY EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN TO KNOW WHAT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES CONFERENCE DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE.BEAUDRY

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